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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/718,569
Applicants : Tetsuya WATANABE et al.
Title : SHAFT SEALING APPARATUS
Filed : November 24, 2003
Art Unit : 3676
Examiner : Vishal Patel
Docket No. : 36595-199008
Customer No. : 26694
Date: : September 17, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment, Response to Election Requirement and
Request for Extension of Time**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Response to Election of Species Requirement begins on page 8 of this paper.

09/20/2004 EFLURES 00000001 10718569

01 FC:1251 110.00 OP
02 FC:1201 172.00 OP